

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An identification card printer or laminator system for printing on or laminating a card, the system comprising:

- a card transport mechanism configured to transport a card along a path;
- a print or lamination mechanism configured to print or laminate the card;
- a print or lamination consumable supply including a tag circuit containing supply data including a tag security code; and
- a controller configured for communication with the tag circuit, the controller configured to allow operation of the printer or laminator system with the consumable supply when the tag security code is valid, and to prevent operation of the printer or laminator system with the consumable supply when the tag security code is invalid.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to compare the tag security code to a second security code to determine whether the tag security code is valid or invalid.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the second security code is contained in memory that is accessible by the controller and is detached from the print or lamination consumable supply.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to read memory of a key card containing the second security code.

5. The system of claim 1, including a communication link between the controller and the tag circuit.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the communication link is a physical link.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the communication link is a wireless communication link.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the communication link is bi-directional.

9. The system of claim 5, wherein the communication link includes a transceiver.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the transceiver includes an antenna.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the antenna is configured to provide power to the tag circuit.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the transceiver is configured to send data to the tag circuit of the consumable supply.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the data sent to the tagged circuit of the supply relates to incremental usage of the supply.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the communication link includes an optical link.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a physical dimension of the supply.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes printer or laminator settings for the supply.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a make of the supply.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a supplier of the supply.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a date code.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a lot code.

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a quantity of supply remaining.

22. The system of claim 1, wherein the supply data includes a supply interlock.

23. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises a ribbon.

24. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises an ink cartridge for an ink jet printhead.

25. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises lamination material.

26. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises an intermediate transfer film.

27. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises hologram film material.

28. The system of claim 1, wherein the consumable supply comprises cleaning tape.

29. A method of controlling an identification card printer or laminator comprising:

- a) providing a print or lamination consumable supply including a tag circuit containing supply data including a tag security code;
- b) reading the tag security code;
- c) comparing the tag security code to a corresponding second security code to determine whether the tag security code is valid or invalid; and
- d) disabling operation of the printer or laminator when the tag security code is invalid.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the comparing step c) includes reading the second security code from a memory that is detached from the print or lamination consumable supply.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the memory is contained on a key card.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the reading step b) includes wirelessly transmitting the tag security code.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises a ribbon.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises an ink cartridge for an ink jet printhead.

35. The system of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises lamination material.

36. The system of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises an intermediate transfer film.

37. The system of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises hologram film material.

38. The system of claim 29, wherein the consumable supply comprises cleaning tape.